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1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
May 22, 1939

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
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DATE *11/19/78 ggp/alc*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Louisiana Political Situation

Dear Mr. Hoover;

At the Louisiana Peace Officers Association Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana last week, I had an excellent opportunity to mingle with the State's peace officers who, of course, are very influential factors in the State's political situation. Earl R. Long, presently Lieutenant-Governor of the State, was very much in evidence, and openly announced his candidacy for the governorship. I had occasion to visit with Mr. LONG at different times during the Convention. He impressed me as being about the "dumbest white man" I have ever talked to, has very little intelligence, no tact, and not very much common sense. He has an over-abundance of confidence in himself, speaks authoritatively about matters he quite evidently knows nothing about, and generally makes a very poor impression. He is quite stubborn, egotistical, and is the type of man who would not listen to reason or advice from any source.

According to the present trend of the political picture, it is almost certain that EARL LONG will receive the Democratic nomination at the caucus of the party which will meet in several months to select a candidate. If he receives that support he is, of course, assured of election. The whole situation now hinges upon the actions of the Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI of New Orleans, who appears to hold the key to the situation. If MAESTRI supports LONG in the caucus, LONG will undoubtedly receive the nomination. Mayor MAESTRI controls the political situation in the City of New Orleans, and a large plurality in the city would be sufficient to overcome any possible plurality in the rest of the State. The principal opponent of LONG for the governorship candidacy is State Senator JAMES NOE of Monroe, Louisiana. NOE is very popular throughout the State with the exception of the City of New Orleans, and is an anti-administration man. The only other active candidate for the State administration endorsement for Governor is WADE O. MARTIN, presently State Public Service Commission Chairman. MARTIN is conceded not to have much of a chance. MARTIN was also present at the Peace Officers Association Convention; however, he did not take much of a part in the affairs, nor was he invited to make any speeches.

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It can be plainly seen from the activities at the Peace Officers Convention that Superintendent GUERRE and the State Police are for the candidacy of EARL LONG since everything on the program was so planned as to give EARL LONG plenty of boosts and support. The general sentiment of the peace officers in attendance was not very favorable to LONG personally, but most of them apparently have taken the attitude that there is nothing which they can do about keeping LONG out and therefore would just have to go along with him.

I received confidential information at the Convention that in the event LONG is endorsed by the State Administration for Governor, EARL CHRISTENBERRY, who is presently Director of the State's Public Relations Office in Washington, will be a running mate of LONG for the office of Lieutenant-Governor. I spent quite a bit of time with EARL CHRISTENBERRY who was also present at the convention, and became personally friendly with him. CHRISTENBERRY is a very intelligent, tactful, diplomatic and likeable individual. He was private secretary to the late Senator HUEY P. LONG for some time, is a very good student of Politics, and is a level-headed, capable young man. MR. CHRISTENBERRY is about 35 years of age. His brother, HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY, is the first Assistant to the United States Attorney, RENE A. VIOSCA, at New Orleans. The fact that EARL CHRISTENBERRY will be Lieutenant-Governor in event EARL LONG becomes Governor is not known, and this information was given to me in confidence. During my association with EARL CHRISTENBERRY at the Convention and my general conversation with him, I came to the definite belief that Governor RICHARD W. LECHE is presently in Washington for the purpose of endeavoring to secure the appointment as United States District Judge in New Orleans; that he expects to secure this appointment within the next month or six weeks, and if so will retire from office as Governor to enter upon his duties as judge within the next two months. Upon this event taking place, EARL LONG will automatically become Governor of the State and will be in position to better further his candidacy for his reelection as Governor.

The name of SEYMOUR WEISS did not enter into any of the discussions. MR. WEISS was not present at the Convention, and I received no indication that he is personally active in politics in the State. He undoubtedly, of course, is active behind the scenes.

One of my newspaper friends, EDWARD HERBERT, City Editor of the New Orleans States, in a general conversation had some weeks ago, informed me of the political situation which coincided almost exactly with the situation as I found it at Baton Rouge, and as related above. HERBERT told me that EARL LONG is extremely and rabidly anti-Semitic and that if he were elected Governor, the Jews in Louisiana would just about have

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to leave the State; that for this reason, SEYMOUR WEISS and other prominent Jews in New Orleans and throughout the State, are bitterly against LONG for the governorship and are doing everything in their power to swing the sentiment away from LONG.

SAM GURVICH was very much in evidence at the Peace Officers Convention. He had his entire patrol force at Baton Rouge, all dressed up in blue-gray uniforms. He did a lot of his usual back-slapping and boasting, and tried to stick his nose into everything that went on. Although I had seen him only twice before, he tried to pretend he was very intimately friendly with me, tried to hang around the same group of people I happened to be with, and kept referring to me as "my old friend Ed." I more or less ignored SAM and by my actions and language let him and the others know that we were not pals, and that his presence was little short of a nuisance to me. GURVICH made no statements in my presence, nor did any information reach me that he made any statements or comments in any way detrimental or derogatory to the Bureau or any of its personnel. GURVICH, of course, seemed friendly with LONG and back-slapped him as much as anyone else in attendance.

There is no question in my mind but that if EARL LONG is elevated to the Governorship, he will unhesitatingly and without any subterfuge try to dominate the peace officers in Louisiana for his own purposes.

I thought that you should have the information relative to the whole situation as it appears to me at this time.

Very truly yours,

B: E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

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